

SMOOT was seated in the Senate last week, after three years' contest. What was the question at issue among the grave and reverend seigneurs? O, one of religious belief—that only.

I AM astounded at reading in Monday's *Globe-Democrat*, "St. Louis Overrun by Idle Workmen," in glaring headline. Is not the Great American System of Protection in full working order, or has it slipped a cog? However, so long as the trust and corporation magnates are safe, what need of bothering about the fellow who must labor that he may live?

It should not be overlooked that the dollars given by Carnegie to this and that public institution represent the wealth taken from the people by aid of special privilege. He has piled up millions through laws which bar the citizen from a free market and compel him to contribute to Mr. Carnegie's great wealth. The Great American System of Protection is a fine thing—for its beneficiaries.

THE decadence of the public conscience is evidenced by the serenity with which we view the recent thefts from two U. S. Sub-Treasuries. Over \$60,000 in one instance, and double that amount in the other, are gone glimmering, but the facts scarcely make a ripple on the stagnant pool of our equanimity. Time was in the life of this nation when two such occurrences would have hazarded, if not shipwrecked, the administration under which the crimes were committed, and sent the perpetrators to everlasting infamy. Now? O, we set up a howl for stronger Sunday and sumptuary laws, forbid horse-racing and progressive euchre, crusade against the use of tobacco, censor the wicked press, de-Mormonize our legislators, loot and destroy the brown and yellow Pagans, dismember unprogressive sister republics, etc., etc., paying little attention to such minor matters as public theft and murder, except as we need the use of them in our business. Being made moral and holy by statute, we back-number conscience and relegate it to the unregenerate.

WHEN President Roosevelt returned from Panama he sent to the Senate a message on the canal. Referring to this the *Baltimore Sun* says: "Mr. Roosevelt proved that the canal was rapidly being built by producing with his message actual photographs of forty-eight scenes, among which were the following: 'President Roosevelt climbing a steamshovel,' 'President Roosevelt making four speeches at the same time to the astonished multitude,' 'President Roosevelt eating his way through a Panama dinner,' 'President Roosevelt's smile, walk, face, feet, ears, boots, clothes, and conversation in sundry front, rear, and profile views.' To avoid another such message, the Senate agreed to let Mr. Roosevelt dig a three-story canal, with basement and cellar, and put in modern plumbing if he thinks best. Now Senator Beveridge proposes to embellish his speech on child labor with all kinds of harrowing photographs, accompanied by affidavits of the photographer that they were taken by a camera and not by a hand-organ. These photographs of the evils of child labor ought to be mighty aids to the Indiana Senator's sweeping eloquence."

ONE hardly knows what to think of this Thaw-White business, so far as the people mixed up in it are concerned. The details of the causes leading to the murder are sickening and ghastly. I have no relish for such reading and do not follow the daily reports closely, but I have seen enough in them to prove to me the unhealthy and wicked conditions which surround society these days and vitiate it. If White and Thaw had been compelled to eat bread in the sweat of their brows, both would have been better men; the girl of 16 would still have been exposed to temptation and misuse, but not at their hands. I do not mean to say that labor conquers all that is vicious in humanity, but of itself it does not furnish opportunity for and invite wrong-doing. On the other hand, wealth, with its power of pandering to the worst in our nature, is a constant menace through our weaknesses. It corrupts nationally and individually and

thereby has destroyed governments and peoples ever since the world began. This is the one fact unquestioned in history; and yet we go on in our worship of the golden calf, sacrifice to it, and die for it. 'Tis passing strange how we still employ this godlike mind—  
The attribute to mankind given.  
The cord that binds this earth to heaven.

BENNY—through his daughter—objects to being called a liar; yet Benny—through his daughter—does not hesitate to make assertions born from his vitiated brain and fostered by a heart filled with malice toward all men except the favored few who in turn use him toward their own ends. I said some weeks ago that I was willing to be taxed for good roads; so I am, and will not grumble if the tax for that purpose be doubled or trebled. I contribute to the county and state revenues, and, from these, thousands of dollars are taken every year for road purposes. I do not discredit myself to avoid paying my full dues to the county and state, but try to truly render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. As to Benny's rot about the school funds in the Iron County Bank, it is so superlatively silly and withal so palpably false, that a reply to it or a denial of it but lends to the lie a shade of possibility. The only school funds available for the establishment of a High School in Ironton are those belonging to this district. W. T. Gay is district treasurer, and where he keeps the surplus funds I do not know; but I do know that not a dollar thereof is deposited in the Iron County Bank. As to the correctness of my statement that if a High School for white children is established here, it will necessitate the providing of one for the colored children of the district, also, I quote from Section 9052 of the School Laws:

"When there are within any school district in this State fifteen or more colored children of school age, the school board of such school district shall be and they are hereby authorized and required to establish and maintain, within such school district, a separate free school for said colored children; and the length of the school term for said colored children, and the advantages and privileges thereof, shall be the same as are provided for others schools of corresponding grade within such school district."

No "demand" on the part of the colored people for such school is necessary, it will be noted; the law imperatively requires its establishment wherever a like grade is instituted for the whites. Whether a High School would cause the deposits in Benny's Bank of Ironton to double in amount, is a question I am not prepared to debate.

From Jefferson City.

Ed. Register:—I suppose everybody is wondering what will become of the Legislature, as the smallpox threatens to capture it altogether. Well, things are not so bad as represented so far, but there certainly was a commotion the other day when it was announced that Judge Salts, of Phelps county, was broken out with the dread disease. It is said that one fellow fell down stairs in getting away. Did I run? Well I did not break any bones, and was able to get back to be vaccinated. Well, so much for the smallpox.

The county supervision bill has passed the House, but may be amended in the Senate. The county uniformity in text books bill went to engrossment in the House. The excise commission bill has been amended so that the commissioner's actions are controlled by the circuit judge. That is, he can be appealed to, if any party is not satisfied with the rulings of the excise commissioner.

Space will not allow me to write all I would like to, but for the benefit of those who love the fox chase I will quote some of the words of Hon. Frank Farris, spoken in his speech against the dog tax bill. Allow me to say here that when he takes the floor there falls on the house a respectful silence, which more than all else acknowledges him the orator he really is. In part he said: "I am here as the friend of the top-eared hound. 'Tis sweet to lay on your pillow, of a crisp, moonlight night, and listen to the deep-mouthed bay of the hound from the distant mountain top, making music sweeter than the ear hath ever heard, or the heart-strings have ever felt." He further said, "I am not fighting personally against a paltry tax. I have a little girl who has a dog she dearly loves. I can pay a tax for my child's dog, but perhaps there are others who are not able to pay; and their child loves its dog as well as my child loves hers."

C. H. POLK.

**CASTORIA.**  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Beware the Signature of  
*Chas. H. Fletcher*

La Grippe and Pneumonia.  
Foley's Honey and Tar cures la grippe coughs and prevents pneumonia. Refuse any but the genuine in the yellow package. Arcadia Valley Drug Co.

# BOUND TO SACRIFICE!

**THE** story is simple. Late in getting into the New Store; unusually heavy purchases, and the extremely mild weather to date, have left our counters piled with Desirable Winter Merchandise, which **MUST BE SOLD.** We need the money; you need the Goods. For the next 30 days we are going to all but

## GIVE THEM AWAY!

# Cut Prices in Every Department!

### Overstocked in Clothing.

The mild weather has been unfavorable for rapid Clothing selling. Soon our Spring Purchases will arrive, and we must convert present stock into cash. Best Bargains in **OVERCOATS** ever offered!

All our \$12, \$14 and \$15 Overcoats now \$10.00  
" \$8 and \$9 " " 6.00  
Extra Special large lot Men's heavy Brown Beaver Overcoats, well worth \$7.50, now \$4

#### Big Cut in All Men's and Boys' Suits.

Our stock is too large to attempt to enumerate all the Reductions.  
All our Regular \$15.00 and \$16.00 Suits cut to \$12  
" " 10.00 and 12.00 " " \$8  
" " 7.50 and 8.00 " " \$6  
And the same proportionate Cut all down the line.

### SPECIAL SHOE BARGAINS.



Men's Heavy Double-Sole Cap Toe Seamless Shoes, worth \$2.25, for \$1.50  
Men's Box Calf and fine Vici Shoes, regular \$2.50 and \$3 values, for \$2 and \$2.25  
Ladies' Medium Weight (cap or plain toe), First Quality Shoes, worth \$2, for \$1.35  
Ladies' fine Vici Kid, Patent Tip, Extension Sole Shoes, for \$1.35  
Many Samples in above sizes—3s to 5s—from 90c to \$1.25.

### Last Call in Winter Millinery.

**Ladies' & Misses' Headgear Slaughtered.**  
Six dozen Ladies', Misses' and Children's Hats, that were sold from 75c to \$3, placed on the counter and marked in plain figures, 25c Each.

#### Ladies' Skirts and Shirtwaists Cut to the Limit.

\$5.00 Skirts and Shirtwaists, now \$3.75  
3.00 Shirtwaists, now 2.00  
1.25 " " .95  
.65 " " .45

### Dry Goods.

Good Quality of Apron Gingham, all the staple Colors and Checks, for 5c a yard.

Large lot of Calicoes, guaranteed Fast Colors, 5c a yard.

#### Flannellettes Reduced!

Many bundles Flannellettes, good colors and weight, for 5c a yard.  
All 10c and 12c Flannellettes now three yards for 25c.

### Underwear Bargains.

Misses' Fleece Union Suits and Separate Piece Garments, 35c grade, closing out at, each 20c  
Large lot Ladies' Fleece-Ribbed Pants, 35c grade, for 22c  
Men's Heavy, All-Wool Underwear, \$1.25 grade, for 85c

#### Blankets and Comforts—Buy Them Now and You Will Buy Them Cheap.

Large Heavy Wool Blankets that sold from \$4 to \$8, now \$2.50 to \$5  
Good Cotton Blankets, all colors, from 50c to \$1 a pair.

**COMFORTS.**  
Soft and downy, \$1.25 grade, for 95c  
" " " 1.60 " " \$1.10

### Special Price on Thread.

We buy **COATS' THREAD** in large quantity, direct from the manufacturer, and get the jobber's price. Our price, 50c a dozen, or six spools for 25c. Large lot Thread slightly soiled, at one cent each.

### Paints! Paints!

We carry a Full Line of the well known Sherwin-Williams Ready Mixed Paints—House Paints, Barn Paints, Floor Stain, Furniture Varnishes, and Enamels, all colors. This is one of the strongest lines of Paints in the world. Try it!

### Splendid Bargains in Groceries

18 pounds Best Granulated Sugar for \$1.00.  
White Navy Beans at 3c a pound.  
8 pounds Roasted Coffee (15c grade), \$1.00.  
Best Canned Corn, three cans for 25c.  
Gallon pails Table Syrup, for 35c.  
Excellent Country Sorghum, at 40c a gallon.  
" Dried Fruit, at 7c a pound.  
Good Potatoes, any quantity, 50c a bushel.  
7 Twists Homespun Tobacco for 25c.  
Star Tobacco, per Plug, 45c.  
And everything else in proportion.

**ALL KINDS OF PRODUCE**  
Bought at the Highest Market Price.

# LOPEZ STORE COMPANY,

## IRONTON, MISSOURI.